1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and in the comparative earnings during these years;

(c) what are the main causes identified for the decline in the air passenger traffic; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The position is as under:-

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Passengers carried (lakhs) (Indian Air lines + Pvt. Air lines	108.8	120.3	118.7
Revenue earnings of Indian Airlines from passenger traffic (Rs. crores)*	1672.13	2019.51	2216.00

*Figures for private airlines are not available.

(c) The comparative stagnation in growth in passenger traffic is attributable to the collapse of several private airline companies.

(d) A committee has been set up to look into the reasons for sickness in the airline industry. Several proposals like rationalisation of price of aviation turbine fuel, abolition of sales tax on ATF, exemption of leasing amounts from income tax etc. are being considered by the Government.

Private and foreign air taxi services in Punjab

1401. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private and foreign air taxi services in operation at present in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) whether it is a fact that no air taxi is operating regularly for Amritsar, Jalandhar, Chandigarh and Ludhiana;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) A list of Private Indian Operators operating in the country is given in the statement (see below). There is no foreign air operator providing domestic air transport services in India.

(b) to (d) M/s Alliance Air is operating 3 days-a-week services to Amritsar and Chandigarh. M/s Archana Airways would commence 3 days-a-week service to Chandigarh from 11th August, 1997 and daily service to Ludhiana from 22nd August, 1997.

Operation of air service to a particular station is provided by the operators depending on the commercial viability and subject to laid down route dispersal guidelines.

Statement

Names of Private Scheduled /AIR TAXI Operators

A. SCHEDULED OPERATOR

1. Archana Airwarys
2. East West Airlines
3. Jet Airways
4. Modiluft
5. NEPC Airlines
6. Sahara India Airlines
7. Skyline - NEPC (Formerly Damania Airways)

B. NON-SCHEDULED/AIR TAXI OPERATORS

1. Ace Airways Pvt. Ltd. (Formerly Delhi Gulf Airways)
2. Aerial Services Pvt. Ltd.
3. Blue Dart Aviation Ltd.
4. Eastern Airways Ltd.
5. East India Hotels Ltd.
6. Elbee Airlines
7. Gujarat Airways Ltd.
8. India International Airways
9. Jagson Airlines
10. K C V Airways Ltd.
11. Megapode Airlines
12. Mesco Airlines
13. Raymonds Ltd.
14. Saraya Aviation
15. Span Air pvt. Ltd.
16. Span Aviation (I) Ltd.
17. Tata Tea Ltd.
18. Trans Bharat Avaition
19. U.B. Air
20. Udan Academy
21. U P Air Services
22. VIF Airways

Basic amenities for handicapped and aged persons at all airports of Maharashtra

1402. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheel chairs, ambulance, stretcher, first aid boxes and special toilets have been provided for the handicapped and aged air passengers in all the airports of Maharashtra particularly at Mumbai and Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) steps Gvoernment propose to take to make these amenities available in all the airports of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Duty Managers at the a ports render assistance wherever necessary. At each airport, wheel chairs, ambulance, stretcher, first aid boxes are available. Special toilets for handicapped have been provided at Mumbai and Nagpur airports.

(c) Such improvements can be considered whenever the existing terminal buildings are modified.

Integrated Cargo Terminal at Nagpur Airport

1403. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Integrated Cargo Terminal has been provided at Nagpur Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Terminal has been completed and has started functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the Terminal will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An Integrated International and National Cargo and Courier Terminal has been completed at Nagpur Airport by modifying the old passenger terminal, for handling both interational and domestic cargo. It also provides office accommodation for concerned agencies. The Terminal Will be commissioned after the Commissioner (Customs), Nagpur notifies, (i) the terminal as Customs area; and (ii) the Airports Authority of India as Custodian of Cargo.

(e) The terminal is expected to be commissioned by 30th September, 1997.

Regularisation of contract workers by AAI

1404. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Supreme Court while upholding a judgment passed by the Bombay High Court has directed the Airport Authority of India to regularise all contract workers